

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims pending

- At the time of the Action: Claims 1-14 and 22-24.
- After Entry of this Response: Claims 1-14 and 22-24.

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: 15-21 (cancelled previously).

Amended claims: 1-3, 11, and 22.

New claims: None.

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for blocking at least one outgoing
2 communication from a calling party to a called line selected by the calling party in
3 connection with a parental control feature offered to subscribers as an outgoing call
4 blocking service, said calling party having a calling line identification number, said
5 method comprising:

6 enabling the subscriber to request that outgoing communications that relate to
7 special feature codes, and that originate from the calling line identification number, be
8 blocked;

9 receiving ~~the~~ an outgoing communication related to a special feature code, said
10 calling line associated with at least one subscriber to ~~an~~ the outgoing call blocking
11 service;

12 obtaining a calling line identification number for said outgoing
13 communication~~call~~;

14 obtaining a called line identification number for said outgoing communication~~call~~;

15 activating the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time;

16 de-activating the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time;

17 looking for said calling line identification number in a data store to determine data
18 associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling
19 line to a called line which are to be blocked;

20 terminating the outgoing communication ~~call~~ if the data indicates that the outgoing
21 communication ~~call~~ is to be blocked;

22 overriding the outgoing call blocking service for at least a second single outgoing
23 communication from the calling line by entering an override code.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising~~
2 ~~completing the call if the data associated with the calling line identification number does~~
3 ~~not indicate that calls to the called line are to be blocked,~~ wherein the special feature code
4 is a star-feature code.

5
6 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising~~
7 ~~completing the call if the called line identification number indicates that the called line is~~
8 ~~an emergency call line,~~ wherein the special feature code relates to conference call
9 capabilities.

10
11 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be
12 blocked comprises a list of area codes to which calls are to be blocked.

13
14 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be
15 blocked comprises a list of at least one of a plurality of called line identification numbers
16 of calls which are to be blocked.

17
18 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be
19 blocked comprises all calls.

20
21 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be
22 blocked comprises all long distance calls.

1 **8.** (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be
2 blocked comprises all calls except calls to one of a plurality of specified called line
3 identification numbers.

4
5 **9.** (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be
6 blocked comprises all calls except calls to one of a plurality of specified area codes.

7
8 **10.** (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be
9 blocked comprises all calls except local calls.

10
11 **11.** (Currently Amended) A method of activating an outgoing call blocking
12 service provided as a parental control feature, the method comprising:

13 receiving, from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line, a
14 predetermined access code to ~~an~~ the outgoing call blocking service;

15 prompting a subscriber to the outgoing call blocking service to provide data
16 concerning outgoing calls to be blocked;

17 receiving the provided data;

18 storing said data in a data store associated with the outgoing call blocking service;

19 activating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set
20 day;

21 enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing long-distance calls from being placed
22 from the calling line;

23 enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified area
24 code;

1 enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified
2 telephone number;

3 enabling the subscriber to prohibit ~~special feature-calls~~ that relate to special feature
4 codes from being placed from the calling line, wherein at least one of the special features
5 is a star feature code that relates to conference calling capabilities;

6 enabling the subscriber to allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified local
7 telephone number; and

8 enabling the subscriber to allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified
9 telephone number.

10
11 **12.** (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
12 prompting the caller for an authorization code; and
13 comparing the received authorization code with a stored authorization code for the
14 calling line identification number.

15
16 **13.** (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising activating the
17 service if the received authorization code corresponds to the stored authorization code for
18 the calling line identification number.

19
20 **14.** (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising not activating the
21 service if the received authorization code does not correspond to the stored authorization
22 code for the calling line identification number.

23
24 **15. - 21.** (Cancel).

1 22. (Currently Amended) A system for blocking a call between a calling line
2 and a called line within a telecommunications network as part of an outgoing call
3 blocking service offered to subscribers as a parental control feature, the system
4 comprising:

5 a service switching point office for receiving an out-going call request from the
6 calling line to ~~a~~the called line;

7 a storage device for storing data concerning outgoing calls to be blocked, and
8 further for storing at least one pre-set time period over which ~~a~~the outgoing call blocking
9 service is to be activated or de-activated, the time period being defined by at least one
10 pre-set time or at least one pre-set day;

11 a controller for determining if data concerning an outgoing call from the calling
12 line to the called line corresponds to data concerning calls to be blocked; and

13 a services circuit node adapted to enable a subscriber to the outgoing call blocking
14 service to:

15 prohibit outgoing long-distance calls from being placed from the calling
16 line;

17 prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified area code;

18 prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified telephone number;

19 prohibit ~~special feature~~ calls that relate to special feature codes from being
20 placed from the calling line, wherein at least one of the special features
21 is a star feature code that relates to conference calling capabilities;

22 allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified local telephone number;

23 and

24 allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified telephone number.

1 **23.** (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller terminates the
2 call if data concerning a call to the called line corresponds to data concerning calls to be
3 blocked.

4
5 **24.** (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller completes the call
6 if data concerning a call to the called line does not correspond to data concerning calls to
7 be blocked.